GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4002
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
PROVISION OF NEW SIM
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been providing new SIM on depositing BSNL telephone bills;

(b) if so, whether this would lead to increase in the number of mobile phone connections in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of mobile phone connections in the year 2006-07 and the expected number of the same by April, 2008 alongwith its position in comparison to other companies in the country State-wise;

(d) whether BSNL and MTNL mobile phone networks get jammed during evening in the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) Sir. There is no such scheme in BSNL. However, in MTNL Delhi, new SIM are being provided against the telephone bill. The detail of connections provided is given below:

Year	Plan name (mobile connections given against MTNL telephone bills)	No. of connections
2006-07	Mobile Plan 100	21870
	Landline 1+1 FW plan	Nil
	Total	21870
2007-08	Mobile Plan 100	7159
	Landline 1+1 FW plan	5857
	Total	13016

In MTNL Mumbai, Free Trump SIM scheme for existing Dolphin and Landline customers has been launched from 28.01.2008. In view of the overwhelming response received, a 'Free Dolphin SIM' scheme has been launched for the existing Dolphin, Garuda postpaid and landline customers from 24.3.2008 on submission of paid bill of Feb.2008

The 'Free Dolphin SIM' scheme has lead to an increased nos. of subscriber as per details given below:

Month	Net Addition
Feb.2008	58934
March 2008	88733

(c) Does not arise in respect of BSNL. Data for other companies (Private telecom operators) is not available. However, status of cellular mobile phone connection working in MTNL Delhi & MTNL Mumbai is given below:

As on	Delhi	Mumbai
31.3.2006	936146	1005009
31.3.2007	1331428	1415386
31.3.2008	1478440	1763411

(d) & (e) GSM based Cellular Mobile Telephone service being provided by BSNL and MTNL are working satisfactorily in their respective Licensed Service Areas and are, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by TRAI.However, congestion has been observed in the mobile network at some places sometimes due to network capacity constrains for which BSNL and MTNL have already initiated action for augmenting its mobile network.The augmentation will also enhance coverage and QoS.BSNL and MTNL are Monitoring and optimizing their network continuously for better performance.